

**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR  
SWORDS INTO PLOW.  
SHARES AND THEIR SWORDS  
INTO PRUNING HOOKS...  
NEITHER SHALL THEY  
LEARN WAR ANYMORE.

I S A I A H 2 : 4

*"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."*

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

**November 30, 2025**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

**CAROLS SING**

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ORGAN PRELUDE**    *Prelude on "Consolation" \* - Charles Callahan*

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.  
Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.

✙ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG *The King Shall Come* (ELW 260)**



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phunt breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

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**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**\*THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH "LOVE'S PURE LIGHT"**

***Responsive Litany***

In this season of Advent, we long for God's presence.

**Christ is our light and the source of our hope.**

In this season of Advent, we search for God's truth.

**Christ is our light and the source of our hope.**

In this season of Advent, we seek God's guidance.

**Christ is our light and the source of our hope.**

In this season of Advent, we remember God's promise.

**Christ is our light and the source of our hope.**

This morning we light the first candle, the candle of hope. This candle reminds us that God's promises give us reason to be filled with hope – hope for unity in a world of division, hope for healing in a world of pain, and hope for peace in a world filled with anger and strife. We remember that Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

# Love's Pure Light

## Congregational part

*"Gesù Bambino"*  
Music: Pietro Yon

Words and Arranged by  
JOEL RANEY

O come, O come, Em - man - u -  
el, and end this gloom of night. Bring  
hope to the world, bring peace to the  
earth, and fill us with love's pure light.

The musical score is written on four staves in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and end this gloom of night. Bring hope to the world, bring peace to the earth, and fill us with love's pure light."

*Let us pray.*

**Gracious God, as we begin our Advent journey we thank you for the gift of your Son, and for sending hope into a world filled with dread. Help us remember that we are your people, and because of your promises we have every reason to be hopeful. Take away our doubt and fear, and remind us that Christ is our light, and the true source of hope.**

**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5**

A reading from Isaiah.

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come  
the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains  
and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 122**

**(read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)**

<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they <sup>|</sup> said to me,  
“Let us go to the house <sup>|</sup> of the LORD.”

<sup>2</sup> **Now our <sup>|</sup> feet are standing  
within your gates, <sup>|</sup> O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is built <sup>|</sup> as a city  
that is at unity <sup>|</sup> with itself;

<sup>4</sup> **to which the tribes go up, the tribes <sup>|</sup> of the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name <sup>|</sup> of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup> For there are the <sup>|</sup> thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the <sup>|</sup> house of David.

<sup>6</sup> **Pray for the peace <sup>|</sup> of Jerusalem:  
“May they pros- <sup>|</sup> per who love you.**

<sup>7</sup> Peace be with- <sup>|</sup> in your walls  
and quietness with- <sup>|</sup> in your towers.

<sup>8</sup> **For the sake of my kindred <sup>|</sup> and companions,  
I pray for <sup>|</sup> your prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup> Because of the house of the <sup>|</sup> LORD our God,  
I will seek to <sup>|</sup> do you good.”

## SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans.

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Gospel Acclamation (Taizé)* (ELW 175)

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community  
Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.  
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**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup> “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.

<sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left.

<sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

<sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** Rev. Julia Brown

**\*Please stand as you are able for the final verse**

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* (ELW 436)**



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.  
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
bliss be-yond all dream-ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite  
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai  
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**Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the apostles' creed.**

**\*CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** *(Please respond.)*

*P: God of grace, C: hear our prayer.*

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**\*OFFERTORY** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (ELW 254)



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Nourishing God,  
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.  
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,  
that we may rejoice and be for the world  
signs of your kingdom come.  
**Amen.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## \*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is life. God is with us.  
Come, receive what God has promised.

## **COMMUNION**

*Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. Notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar, the Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.*

## COMMUNION SONG *What Feast of Love* (ELW 487) vs. 1,3



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?

3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?

What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.

This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!

Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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## COMMUNION HYMN *My Lord, What a Morning* (ELW 438)

*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



*Refrain*

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

### \*COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
Amen.

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

### \*BLESSING

May God who comes among us,  
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.  
**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (ELW 244)**



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER**

**POSTLUDE** *Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying* – Johann G. Walther

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## SERVING TODAY

Interim Pastor .....	Rev. Julia Brown
Church Office Email Address .....	<a href="mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org">office@solomonslutheran.org</a>
Organist .....	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher .....	Martie Veilleux
Acolyte .....	Janice McEntire
Lector.....	Kathy Bowen
Securing Offering.....	Janice McEntire & Brian Coldsmith
Communion Set-Up.....	
Communion Clean-Up .....	
Communion Bread .....	
Communion Assist.....	
Attendance last Sunday.....	29

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the glory of God in memory of Darrell Dean Veilleux given by The Veilleux family.

**Welcome Visitors!** We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

**Communion will be served on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month in addition to all church holidays.**

### **Weekly Calendar Reminders:**

- December 1 - W&M 6pm
- 4 - Finance Noon
- Choir - 7pm
- 6 - Antietam Battlefield 9am
- 7 - Christmas Party following service

**Advent is here, starting today and prior to worship each Sunday, we will have a Christmas carols hymn sing.** You can choose your favorite carol from the Christmas portion of the hymnal, #267-300.

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY:** We will be using the devotional *Preparing for Christmas* by Richard Rohr. Books will be available at the first Bible study. We will be gathering on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM. Locations: 12/3 - Solomon's UCC, 12/10 - Solomon's Lutheran, 12/17 - Solomon's UCC.



**Any pastoral care or concerns can be addressed to Pastor Julia Brown by email [jlouisebrown@msn.com](mailto:jlouisebrown@msn.com) or phone 703-434-9220.**

**Prayer requests for the following:** *Peggy Weller, William Brindle, Patricia Yetter, Kaitlyn Dovey, Norm Kuykendall, Phil Johnson, Nancy Deardorff, Susie Bingaman, Patsy Wildeson, Glenn Wildeson, James Bersch, Kristen Hardman, Brandan DeShong, Charles Carl, Marty Wenger, Nancy Marshall, Betty Amt, our world & country, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Chuck Bedsworth, Linda Mumaugh, Katy Klutz, Becky Ensinger, and all the Homebound. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire, 717-264-3702.*

**Please Be Aware:** *We wish to be a praying congregation, and especially for those who are sick or experiencing difficult times. We will continue to name person's (first name only) aloud each Sunday, and we will hold each name for a month. In order to keep our list updated we ask that by the final Thursday of the month, but please call Janice McEntire 717 264-3702 to keep the name on for an extra month. Any name can remain for as long as desired, but we need to hear from the person adding the name, or we will presume the name can be removed. Thank you for your understanding.*

**Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> following the church service.** Pizza will be provided prior to leaving to visit and share Christmas carols with our homebound residents. If you can join the carolers to bring joy to the residents, please contact Bonney Coldsmith. There is a sign-up sheet in the Sunday School Room.

**Christmas worship at Solomons:** Christmas Eve worship will start with special music beginning at 7:10 PM, leading into the Christmas candlelight service at 730 PM.

**Once again this year there are two Sundays after Christmas.** On Christmas 1, December 28, we will once again worship with the Service of Lessons and Carols...a great opportunity to hear scripture foretelling the birth of Christ, the story of the birth of Christ, the coming of the Three Kings, and the wonderful passage that begins, "In the beginning was the Word." You will have the opportunity to sing many Christmas carols as part of this service.

**Finally, on January 4 we are going to observe The Feast of the Epiphany with the gospel reading of The Three Kings to close our Christmas season.** Mark your calendars and invite family and friends to worship with us during this special season of the year.

**The 35th annual Antietam Battlefield Illumination will take place on Saturday, December 6.** This is a very fulfilling and emotional event which honors the 23,110 casualties which occurred during the battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862. Volunteers are greatly needed to set up and light the luminaries. Solomon's is responsible for setting up and lighting approximately 720 luminaries. Volunteers should be at our field (by the lookout tower), no later than 9:00 AM. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be in the Sunday School room. For further information please contact Bonney Coldsmith.

**The 2026 Chart for Altar flowers is on the table in the Sunday School room.** The cost of the two vases will be \$60.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$60.00 with the bulletin information.

**The January/February/March edition of Our Daily Bread** is available in the pamphlet rack in the vestibule.

**Choir rehearsals continue on Thursday evenings at 7 PM.** The choir continues to look for additional voices to help lead our worship services. Experience is not necessary!

**Weekends of Wonder:** Weekends of Wonder is a children's Christian education program offered by Solomon's UCC. On the second Saturday of every month, children ages 3 years and older can join Solomon's from 9:30 AM until noon for stories, songs, and activities designed to teach about God and God's love. Meanwhile, our hope is that guardians are enjoying a well-deserved sabbath! For more information and to download the registration form, visit <https://www.mysolomonsucc.org/childrens-ministry.html>. **If you would like to volunteer, please contact Pastor Julia to get connected.**

**SpiritTrust Lutheran has discount cards for sale, \$5 each good through August 2026.** If interested, they can be purchased from Bonney Coldsmith, Marjorie Dale, Becky Pecha, and Frances Reichard.

**Power Pack Meals:** We are once again collecting nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need during the 2025-2026 school year. Please place the items you donate in the tote in the Sunday School room. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church and put Power Pack Meals in the memo of your check.

**If you are not taking your altar flowers home,** please let Kathy Bowen know to whom or to where you would like them donated. Thanks.

**The 2026 sign-up charts for Acolyte, Lector etc. are on the table in the Sunday School room.** Please sign up for as many as you can.

**Bulletin Announcement Forms** are in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

### **Music Notes/Hymn Notes:**

Many songs have been inspired by happy times, but today's Hymn of the Day, "Wake, Awake for Night is Flying," was inspired by the worst of times. Philip Nicolai was a Lutheran pastor in Unna, Germany when the plague did its terrible work in the winter of 1597-1598. The plague took the lives of more than 1300 people in his community. He kept busy all winter conducting funerals and comforting the sick and grieving. He wrote this hymn as an encouragement—a statement of faith in the coming of the Christ who overcame death on the cross—and who overcomes death for us as well. In most cases, a poet writes the words to a hymn, and a musician adds the tune. However, in this case, Nicolai wrote both words and music. Johann Sebastian Bach came across Nicolai's hymn and made some small changes to make it more singable. In the process, Bach also helped to popularize it. The hymn was based on the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. Although not our Gospel reading today, the hymn still relates to our readings. "Be on guard...be alert at all times" are phrases from today's Gospel reading. The opening stanza calls the followers of Christ to be roused and alert for His Second Coming. Stanza 2 describes the joyous scene when the bridegroom returns and takes His bride, the church, into the wedding feast. Finally, the third stanza adores the Lamb of God and describes the glorious scene in heaven, as given in Revelation 19 and 21, where the saints will worship in song forever. (sermonwriter.com; hymnary.org)

Our offertory hymn during Advent, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788). It is a beautiful hymn that expresses deeply the two-fold purpose of the Advent season: we remember the birth of Christ, and we fiercely desire His coming again. Perhaps more than other Advent hymns, this text especially expresses our longing for Christ's second coming. Even though we know that Christ goes with us and before us every day, we long for the day when we are with Him in all of the fullness and glory He will bring. We long for the day when we are with Him in a New Heaven and New Earth, when all things are made new. And just as a young child crawls into its parent's arms after an absence, so too, we long for the day when we will be at rest in Christ, enfolded in the embrace of our Savior. The hymn's ultimate emphasis is on the kingship of Jesus, closing with a prayer that Christ will rule in our hearts alone. (It is interesting to note that Wesley originally intended for this to be a Christmas hymn). (Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins; Austin C. Lovelace, pg.25).

\*This morning's prelude is based on our gathering song, "The King Shall Come." The composer, Charles Callahan, used the tune name for the title, rather than the name of the hymn. This tune can also be found in hymn #319, "Oh Lord, Throughout These Forty Days."